

News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202

After Hours: (856) 297-5433

REVISED FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 11, 2008

SALEM COUNTY FREEHOLDERS APPOINT NEW COUNTY TREASURER/CFO

(SALEM, NJ) – Freeholder Director Lee Ware today announced that Douglas C. Wright has been appointed as the new Salem County Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer. Mr. Wright will be replacing retiring Chief Financial Officer Joanne Bell beginning October 1, 2008 and head up the Salem County Finance Department in the County Administration Building. Mrs. Bell will be retiring effective October 1, 2008.

"As we continue to offer quality services to Salem County residents, we need to ensure that we have quality financial and budgetary services for the Freeholder Board and all departments in Salem County," said Freeholder Director Lee Ware. "Joanne Bell has done a fabulous job as the Chief Financial Officer. She has always been proactive and prudent in all her dealings and we wish her a long and happy retirement."

Mr. Wright, is a life-long resident of Salem County; he and his wife, Alexandra, and their daughter, Dorea, reside in Pennsville. A 1979 graduate from Salem High School, Wright received a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, *summa cum laude*, from Widener University and began his career as an auditor with Warner & Co. in Woodstown. He is licensed to practice as a Certified Public Accountant in New Jersey and is currently taking the required courses for Chief Finance Officer Certification.

"Mr. Wright started with the County on September 8, 2008 to ensure a smooth and efficient transition," said Director Ware. "We believe that Mr. Wright's qualifications and background in auditing will serve the tax payers well."

Mr. Wright has been appointed for a one-year term, to fill the unexpired term of Joanne Bell and providing him time to obtain the state required Chief Finance Officer certification. His annual salary is set at \$77,500. He will oversee the Budgetary and Purchasing Departments.

The County is transferring the Payroll Office to the Department of Human Resources under the auspices of Deputy County Administrator Robin Weinstein.

"Effective September 15th, Mr. Weinstein will oversee the payroll functions of the County in the new Department of Human Resources and Payroll," said Director Ware. "We believe that bringing these two offices together makes sense in terms of efficiency and will improve service to our County employees."